Yes, using xylene to strip floors inside a house is **extremely hazardous**. Xylene is a powerful, volatile petroleum-based solvent that releases heavy toxic fumes, poses severe health risks if inhaled or touched, and carries a high risk of fire or explosion in enclosed spaces. National Institutes of He... +5

## Major Health Hazards

- **Nervous System Effects:** Inhaling high concentrations of xylene vapors depresses the central nervous system, causing severe headaches, dizziness, nausea, confusion, and loss of coordination. Vertec BioSolvents +1
- **Irritation:** Vapors and liquid severely irritate the eyes, nose, throat, and respiratory tract. Contact with skin strips natural oils and causes chemical irritation or dermatitis. Vertec BioSolvents +2
- **Aspiration Risk:** If accidentally swallowed, xylene can enter the lungs and cause fatal chemical pneumonia.

## Safety and Fire Risks

- **Extreme Flammability:** Xylene liquid and vapors are highly flammable and heavier than air. Vapors can travel along the floor to a distant ignition source (such as a pilot light on a water heater, furnace, or household appliance) and flash back.
- **Confined Space Buildup:** Without massive, active cross-ventilation, toxic and explosive vapor concentrations rapidly accumulate indoors. Canadian Centre for Occ... +2

## Essential Safety Measures If Used Indoors

If you must use xylene, treat it with extreme caution:

- **Ventilation:** Open all windows and doors, and use heavy-duty commercial exhaust fans to push indoor air outside continuously. Ensure cross-flow with no dead air pockets. GreenBuildingAdvisor
- **Ignition Control:** Shut off all pilot lights, appliances, and potential electrical sparks in or near the work area. Fisher Scientific +1
- **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):** Wear a properly fitted respirator with organic vapor cartridges (dust masks do not work), chemical splash goggles, and heavy-duty chemical-resistant gloves (like nitrile or viton). YouTube · Ace Hardware